

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE HIGH SCHOOL

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4301 East-West Highway (on Chelton Road)

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Board of Education, Montgomery County Public Schools 279-3617
Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

850 Hungerford Drive

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

MD

STATE 20850 zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Department of Assessments & Taxation

Liber #: 564

Folio #: 46

STREET & NUMBER

51 Monroe Street, Third Floor

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

MD

STATE 20850

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

M: 35-14-14

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

interior

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED

DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School has grown since 1935 when its first building was erected. Many buildings have been built over the years. Fortunately, its first building, designed by Howard Cutler in 1934, still reflects its original character.¹

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was obviously modeled after the famous Wren Building (1695-1702), the first academic building at William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia. Many historians believe that the prominent English architect, Christopher Wren, designed the Wren Building. Reminiscent of the Wren Building, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School is a Georgian-style edifice with a tempered elegance. It is a restrained classical structure built in red brick with flat walls, white ornamental trim, and exactly placed architectural refinements, such as its wood cornice, moulded brick courses and quoins.

This two-story high school with attic and basement was larger and more imposing than earlier Montgomery County schools. Unlike most previous county schools, Bethesda-Chevy Chase was designed as a laterally-extended structure (29 bays long) with a strong horizontal directional thrust of its east and west elevations. This compositional arrangement echoes the Wren Building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

Reminiscent of the Wren Building, the school is ordered by the traditional tripartite (three-part) composition with projecting central pedimented entrance and surmounted by cupola. Georgian-style chimney stacks at both ends effectively terminate the composition. The design of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School respects the rules of classical symmetry, hierarchy and proportion. The perfect balance of the composition gives this building an ordered, controlled and serene character. The edifice's symmetrical character is most pronounced from its east elevation, which is the main entrance facade of the high school. Originally, the centrally located main entrance, rendered in the classical Georgian style, was demarked by a grand flight of stairs. Only architectural remnants of the main entrance exist. The stairs have been destroyed. The slate hipped roof with Georgian-style dormer windows endow the building with the visual stability desired for civic monuments.

Cupola, the small dome-like structure on the polygonal bases centrally placed atop the edifice, were traditionally associated with civic architecture. The inclusion of cupola on the Wren Building, and much later on Cutler's high school, was a way to stress the civic nature of the respective buildings. The wooden cupola with copper roof and topped with iron weather vane makes the high schools resemble town halls and public institutions.

In appearance, Bethesda-Chevy Chase is a conservative, revival style building. Technologically, it was up-to-date, equipped with concrete footings, steel windows, acoustical plaster ceilings, linoleum covered cement floors, copper gutters and modern utilities. It was a practical building with large (usually 4'4" wide) windows that emitted ample light. Recalling many other architects working on major projects during this period, Cutler worked with an engineer, James Posey, who was in charge of the technical aspects of building.

The horizontal extension of the building belies its interior plan which is arranged around a long, laterally-extended hall. Originally, this hall was perpendicular to the central entrance hall and lobby, which no longer exist. The administrative offices flanked the entrance hall and lobby; classrooms were on both sides of the main hall. A cafeteria was included in the attic; utilities were in the basement.

In 1941, over 3,000 people witnessed a fire burning through the cupola and attic (cafeteria) of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Six local fire companies fought to save the building; teachers tried to save records. One fireman, John Adair, the first person to

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

receive a diploma (1929) at Bethesda-Chevy Chase, was killed when a vehicle drove through the signal flares. Another former B-CC student was later arraigned for arson.² The cupola and attic were repaired.

Today, this building is called the Language Arts Building. Its classrooms are devoted to the study of English and foreign languages. It no longer houses administrative offices or the cafeteria.

Since 1939, the long hall of this building has been used for and decorated by student murals. The first mural (1939) depicted the discovery of America. Interestingly, another early mural, called "A Vision of the Future," depicted the architectural monuments of Washington: the Lincoln Memorial, the Supreme Court, the Library of Congress, the United States Capitol and the National Cathedral. Apparently, Cutler, the architect of B-CC, helped the students determine how to render drawings of buildings.³

During the 1930s and 1940s, the high school experienced dramatic growth. The following documents the erection of new buildings and additions during the period ending in 1945-6:

1935	1st building:	\$235,828
	land:	94,859
1938	1st addition:	\$239,855
	land:	4,547
1941	2nd addition:	13,487
	land:	22,273
1946	3rd addition:	4,7384 ⁴

Early building projects included gymnasias and an art facility. By the late 1940s, a temporary building on the site of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was the first home of Montgomery Junior College.

PERIOD				AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS						

SPECIFIC DATES

1934-5

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Howard Wright Cutler

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (1934-5) is one of the most important architectural landmarks in the history of 20th century Montgomery County. The large size and architectural dignity of Bethesda-Chevy Chase distinguish this school from other academic buildings and make it one of the county's most important civic monuments of the pre-World War II period. This classical monument reveals how the spirit of the American Renaissance (late 19th and early 20th century) and its revived classicism and emphasis on civic pride, profoundly affected Montgomery County. In addition, Bethesda-Chevy Chase represents the great strides made by the public school system in Montgomery County during the early 20th century. These advances culminated in the maturation and institution of the 12 year program of study.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Montgomery County, Maryland, suffered far less by the Great Depression of the 1930s than other parts of the country. A larger and more powerful federal government resulted in the expansion of Washington, D.C. and its suburbs. As the area grew so did Montgomery County and the county's school system. Between 1920 and 1940 the number of students attending public school rose from 6,195 to 15,096. During the same period, the county's expenditures on schools dramatically increased, reaching \$2,437,770.83 in 1945.⁵

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Growth and prosperity changed the county's perception of itself. A feeling of maturity and sophistication raised architectural standards and expectations. All of this helps to explain why, despite, the nation-wide building slump of the 1930s ---- a period when most architects had relatively few commissions, Montgomery County could afford the services of professional architects.

During the 1920s and 1930s, the educational architecture in Montgomery County was shaped and transformed by architect Howard Wright Cutler (- 1948). Cutler was not a nationally-known architect, but he was a professional. Selecting Howard Cutler as the principal designer of Montgomery County public schools reveals the county's desire to project an image of professionalism and modernity, and to create a new academic image.

Howard Cutler came to Washington from New York State with a professional training. In New York, he worked in the architectural offices of J. Foster Warner for one year and Gordon & Madden for seven years. Cutler was a member of the Central New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) before he was elected to the national organization of the AIA in 1915. At this time, he had been in practice with his own firm, Hutchinson & Cutler, for five years.⁶ Throughout most of his career in the Washington area, his offices were located in the District of Columbia. However, late in his career, he apparently worked out of his home on Dale Drive in Silver Spring, Maryland.

As an architect, Cutler well represented the spirit of the American Renaissance (late 19th and early 20th century) ---- its civic ideals and revived classicism. As Cutler brought standards of professionalism and an academic vision to his work, he transformed county school architecture. Interestingly, it was during the 1930s --- the period of the Great Depression, when Cutler's most important school commissions for Montgomery County were built. During the 1930s, Howard Cutler defined the academic image along traditional lines by often relying upon or making reference to classical architecture. Cutler was concerned with the great traditions and symbolic potential of architecture. At the same time, he was a practical architect who made effective use of materials and did not include extraneous ornament. His academic approach and classical vocabulary endowed schools with the look of great institutions in civic centers, thereby making the "school house" of rural Montgomery County look passe, out-of-date.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Bethesda-Chevy Chase, originally called Western Suburbia High School (1934-5),⁷ was one of Cutler's greatest achievements of the period. Cutler's design for this high school represents a new direction in the county's educational image.

In 1926, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, then located on Wilson Lane in Bethesda, offered study through the eighth grade. By the Fall of 1926, the school added ninth grade. Due to population growth, the school building was soon overcrowded. Two years later, in 1928, the seventh through tenth grades were moved into a new building at 44th Street, Elm Street and Bethesda Avenue. Records indicate that Cutler designed this building,⁸ which included six classrooms, an auditorium with a capacity of 1,500 and a gymnasium. At this time, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School was the largest in the Maryland.

The population of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase area continued to grow. By the early 1930s, there was already a need for a larger high school.

Interestingly, instead of asking Cutler to add on to the 1928 building (which became Leland Junior High School), the Board of Education selected a new site not far from the existing Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School for the proposed Western Suburbia High School. The self-conscious choice to separate the new high school from the existing one may have been a way to stress the difference between the old "high" school, which offered some study above the sixth grade, and the new "high" school, which provided a twelve year program of study.⁹ A new and separate building thus proclaimed the new educational system instituted during the 1930s.

The county purchased \$94,859 worth of farm land owned by the prominent Watkins family for Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. The Watkins house still stood on the site. This location was off the then developing East-West Highway, near the intersection of Wisconsin Avenue, and not far from the B & O Railroad line. The site was on high ground, which gave the building great visibility from different directions.

The school's main entrance was oriented toward the east, facing west-bound traffic on East-West Highway; its eastward elevation overlooked Rock Creek and the Rock Creek park system, which was developing during this period. The selection of such a conspicuous location for the high school on vital arteries of transportation and near Rock Creek Park effectively advertised the high school to the public. Thus, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School served

M: 351414

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

as a public monument welcoming visitors to Bethesda from the east, coming from the areas of Silver Spring and Takoma Park.

A new academic image was needed to express the advances represented by the newly instituted twelve year system. This explains why the new high school reveals a stylistic departure from early schools. Western Suburbia High School shows that Cutler was increasingly self-conscious of style, particularly the symbolic potential and historical associations of classical architecture. Cutler employed the Georgian style for this new school of higher learning.

The Georgian is the name given to the English Baroque, a classical 17th and 18th century style. The English Baroque is known for its symmetry, dignity and academicism, and for being more restrained than continental Baroque styles. A variation of the Georgian was transplanted to the English colonies in North America, including Virginia and Maryland. Both Williamsburg, Virginia, and Annapolis, Maryland, are known for their Georgian Colonial architecture. Georgian architecture was rejected by Americans after the American Revolution because the style was associated with English rule. The revived classicism of the American Renaissance during the late 19th and early 20th century fostered a Georgian Revival.

During the 1930s, John D. Rockefeller's restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, resulted in another Georgian Revival. By this time, the public's perception of Georgian architecture was positive. As a classical style, the Georgian represented tradition, civility, and stability. Most importantly, it was associated with the roots of American culture, and perceived of as an American style. The Georgian was self-consciously viewed as a style that linked American culture to European civilization.

Howard Cutler was one of many architects inspired by the Georgian Revival. His choice of the Georgian style for high schools in Montgomery County was more logical than one might initially think. By selecting the Georgian, Cutler made reference to Maryland's early history and to early American educational traditions. Harvard College, Massachusetts, and William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia, were the two oldest colleges in America. Their early buildings were rendered in the Georgian style.

The Wren Building (1695-1702), the first academic edifice at William & Mary and believed by some historians to have been designed by the famous English architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Christopher Wren, was the obvious model for Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School. Reminiscent of the Wren Building, Cutler's Georgian-inspired high school possesses a tempered elegance. It is a restrained classical edifice that expressed the academic image sought by the Montgomery County Board of Education.

NOTES

- ¹ Original 1934-5 blueprints of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School by architect Howard Wright Cutler are in the possession of Construction Division of Montgomery County Public Schools in Rockville, Maryland.
- ² The Tattler (Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's newspaper), Friday, April 23, 1976 (50th anniversary issue), A-20, column one.
- ³ An article entitled "Murals bring new life, dimension to hallways" (The Tattler, Friday, April 23, 1976, B-7, column one) states that students took snapshots of buildings and then met with "the architect who had designed B-CC."
- ⁴ "School File," Montgomery County Historical Society, Rockville, Maryland.
- ⁵ See Appendix, E. Guy Jewell, From One Room to Open Space: A History of Montgomery County Schools From 1732 to 1965, Rockville, Maryland: Montgomery County Public Schools, 1976, 320-1.
- ⁶ Karin M.E. Alexis's manuscript on the architectural history of educational institutions in Montgomery County, 1900-1945 (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historic Trust) includes a summary of Howard Cutler's architectural career and his work for the Montgomery County Board of Education. Some valuable information on Cutler was found in the Archives of the American Institute of Architects (RG 803 Box 221, Folder 71).
- ⁷ Cutler's blueprints (1934) call the high school Western Suburbia High School.
- ⁸ The early renderings (1928) of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (Leland Junior High School) are by Cutler (Division of Construction, Montgomery County Public Schools).
- ⁹ For more information on this, see Alexis' manuscript (including bibliography) on the architectural history of educational institutions in Montgomery County, 1900-1945.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Archives, American Institute of Architects;
Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;
Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools;
Library, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School;
Montgomery County Historical Society;

M: 35-14-14

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16.36 A
not entire campus
building: 216' X 63'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

East-West Highway, Chelton Road, Sleaford Road, Pearl Street,

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE **KARIN M.E. ALEXIS, PH.D., ART & ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY**

ORGANIZATION

DATE

JUNE 1988

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

2449 Villanova Drive

280-1107

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Vienna, Virginia

22180

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

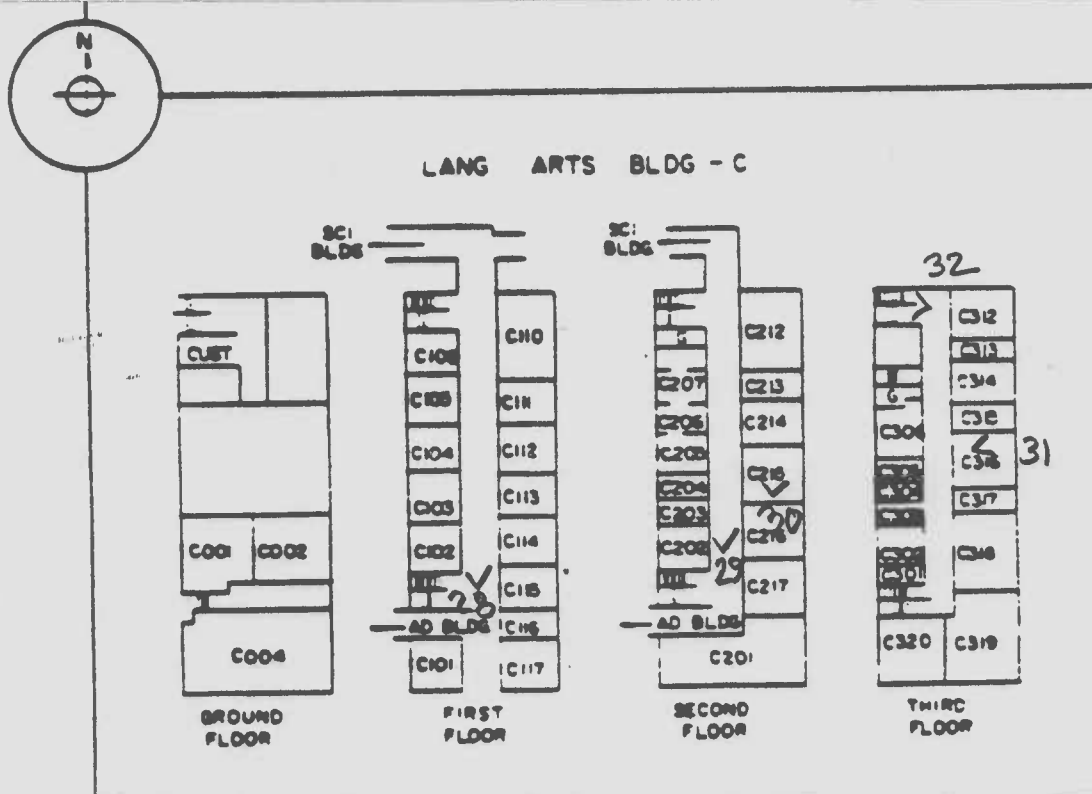
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

M: 35-14-14
M: 35-47

BCC High School
Montgomery Co., MD

Index to Photographs of the interior of
Building C



M: 35-14-14

M: ~~35-47-1~~

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Administration Building, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

4301 East-West Highway (facing East-West Highway)

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8th

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC
☐ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☒ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Board of Education, Montgomery County Public Schools 279-3617
 Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

850 Hungerford Drive

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

VICINITY OF

MD

20850

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
 REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Liber #: 564
 Folio #: 46

Department of Assessments and Taxation

STREET & NUMBER

51 Monroe Street, 3rd Floor

CITY, TOWN

Rockville, MD 20850

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Administration Building of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School (1952) still reflects its original character. It was designed by architect Rhees Burket to complement Howard Cutler's 1935 building (the first building on campus). Burket's Administration Building was conceived as a large academic edifice with a sense of tradition, dignity and tempered elegance created by symmetrical balance and the classical Georgian style. It is an all masonry construction of red brick walls, white trim (wood cornice), slate roof with wood dormer windows, and concrete footings and base.

Burket's tracings and renderings from 1947-49 proposed several alternatives for future building projects. The design concept for the future administration building closely resembles the architect's early proposals for an administration building (1947) and a physical education facility (which was never built to Burket's earliest specifications). Burket envisioned a T-shape plan with an administration center and library (to the rear). A covered passage would connect the administration building with the 1935 edifice. Probably due to financial limitations, these buildings were not erected in the late 1940s. However, Burket's design (1949) for a badly needed cafeteria (83'4" long; 205,000 cubic feet; 600 person capacity) was built in 1950 on the site of the administration center. It was to serve as the basement of the future administration building. This structure included space for a temporary library.

Finally, in 1951, Burket's ideas for the Administration Building took their present shape. Burket designed a two story (from the front; three stories from the rear) Georgian style edifice with full attic and basement (which already existed as the cafeteria). This design respected Cutler's 1935 Georgian academic building,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (CONTINUED)

which was modeled after the famous Wren Building (1695-1702), the first academic building at William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia. Burket's structure is also in this tradition.

Burket's Administration Building is a restrained classical structure built in red brick with flat walls, white trim (wood cornice), high hipped Georgian style slate roof with dormer windows and Georgian style chimney stacks framing the center pavilion (13 bays). It also includes moulded brick articulations, stone quoins and some ornamental stone work. Recalling Cutler's 1935 building, this high school structure is laterally-extended (25 bays long) with the main entrance on the long side (south elevation) facing East-West Highway. The school is ordered by the traditional tripartite (three-part) composition with center projecting pavilion and sides. The elegant main entrance with sculptural stone swan's neck pediment is elevated by a grand flight of steps.

The horizontal extension of the building belies its interior plan which is arranged around a long, laterally-extended hall. On the first (main) floor, the long hall flanked by administrative offices; on the second and third (attic) floors, the hall is flanked by classrooms.

REPOSITORIES AND SOURCES

Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools;
Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;
The Iattler, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School's newspaper,
Friday, April 23, 1976;

SIGNIFICANCE

M: 35-14-14

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES **1952** BUILDER/ARCHITECT **Rhees Burket**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Administration Building (1952) of Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, designed by Rhees Burket, is an important architectural landmark in the history of Montgomery County and its public schools. This Georgian style edifice represents the persistence of the classical tradition during a period overwhelmed by Bauhaus-inspired modernism. It is of great historical significance because it is the last Georgian style academic building erected for a public school in Montgomery County. By the 1950s, modernism had completely eclipsed traditional architectural forms in public school design. Burket's design respected the traditional image of academic architecture established by Howard Wright Cutler in Montgomery County.

During the 1930s, architect Howard Cutler defined the academic image of Montgomery County's public schools along traditional lines. He often relied upon references to classical architecture. Cutler was concerned with the great traditions and symbolic potential of architecture. In 1934, Cutler used the Georgian style for Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School and Montgomery Blair High School.

The Georgian is the name given to the English Baroque, a classical 17th and 18th century style. The English Baroque is known for its symmetry, dignity and academicism, and for being more restrained than continental Baroque styles. A variation of the Georgian was transplanted to the English colonies in North America, including Virginia and Maryland. Both

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

Williamsburg, Virginia, and Annapolis, Maryland, are known for their Georgian Colonial architecture. Georgian architecture was rejected by Americans after the American Revolution because the style was associated with English rule. The revived classicism of the American Renaissance during the late 19th and early 20th century fostered a Georgian Revival.

During the 1930s, John D. Rockefeller's restoration of Williamsburg, Virginia, resulted in another Georgian Revival. By this time, the public's perception of Georgian architecture was positive. As a classical style, the Georgian represented tradition, civility, and stability. Most importantly, it was associated with the roots of American culture, and perceived of as an American style. The Georgian was self-consciously viewed as a style that linked American culture to European civilization.

The choice of the Georgian style for high schools in Montgomery County was more logical than one might initially think. By selecting the Georgian, architects made reference to Maryland's early history and to early American educational traditions. Harvard College, Massachusetts, and William & Mary College, Williamsburg, Virginia, were the two oldest colleges in America. Their early buildings were rendered in the Georgian style.

When Burket's Administration Building was completed in 1952, the social studies and mathematics departments were moved into the second and third floors. By this time, the campus consisted of Cutler's 1935 building (the language arts building), an arts building, gymnasiums for boys and girls, and temporary quarters for Montgomery County Junior College (which was in temporary quarters). Together these buildings formed a quadrangle around a central court.

Also see Karin M.E. Alexis' manuscript on the architectural history of Montgomery County's Public Schools: 1900-46 (1988) (Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission and Maryland Historic Trust).

M: 35-14-14

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Construction Division, Montgomery County Public Schools;
Montgomery County Historical Society;
Central Records, Montgomery County Public Schools;

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 16.36A
not entire campus;
building: roughly 185' X 65'

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

East-West Highway, Chelton Road, Sleaford Road, Pearl Street,

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

KARIN M.E. ALEXIS, PH.D., ART & ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

ORGANIZATION

DATE

JUNE 1988

STREET & NUMBER

2449 Villanova Drive

TELEPHONE

280-1107

CITY OR TOWN

Vienna, Virginia 22180

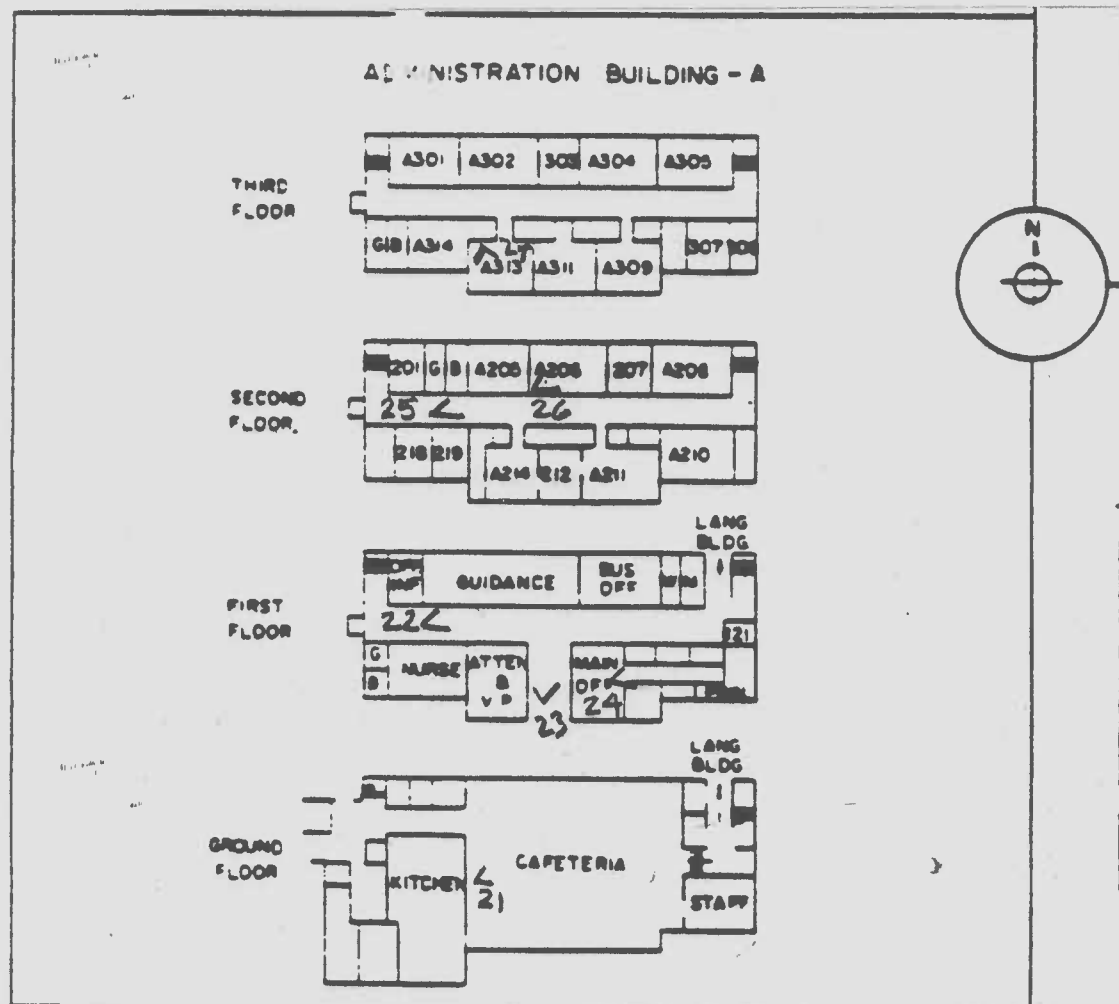
STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Index to Photographs of the interior of
Building A

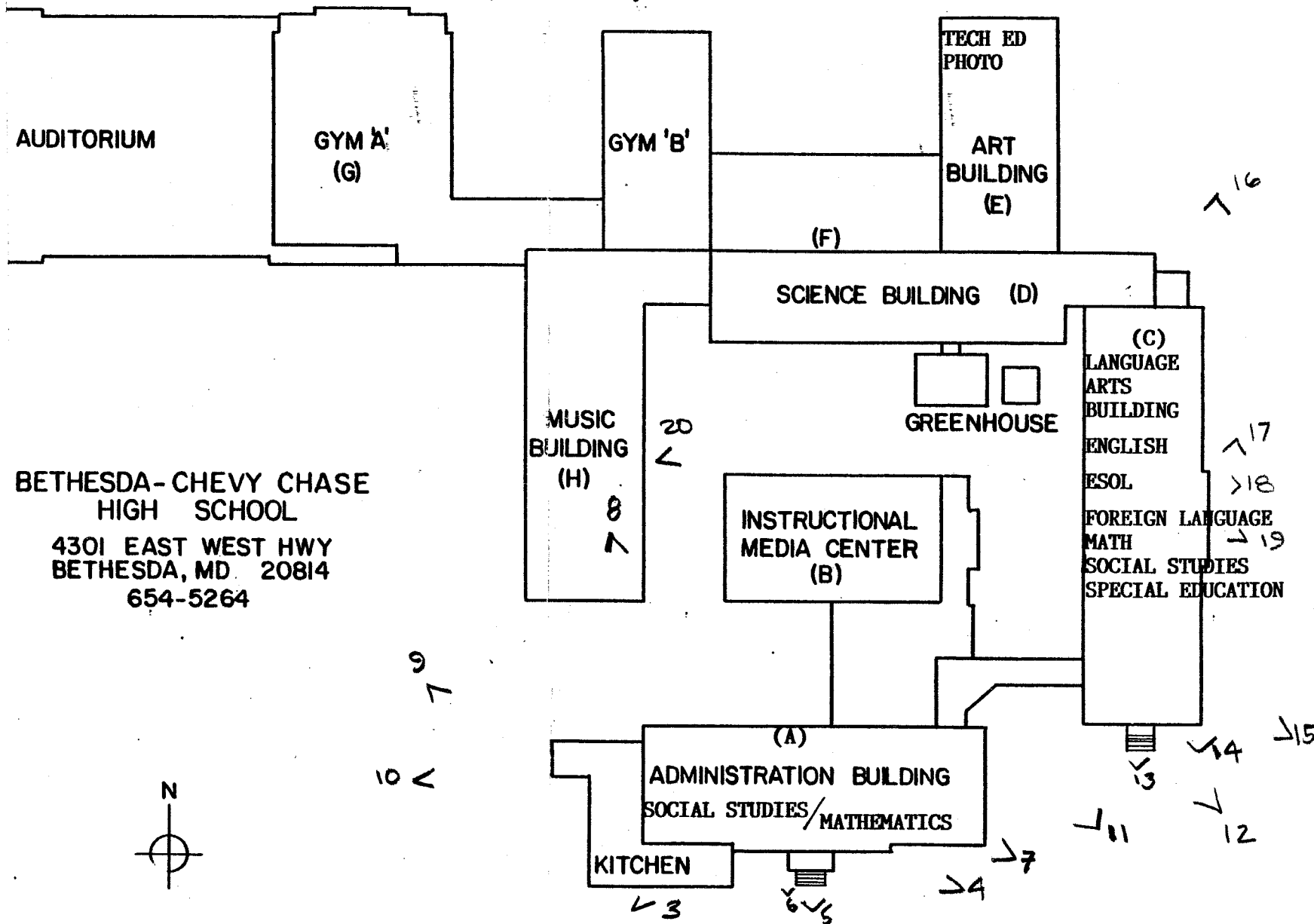


M:35-14-14

M:35-47 BCC High School
M:35-47-1 Montgomery Co., MD

Index to Photographs of the exteriors of
Buildings A and C

BETHESDA-CHEVY CHASE
HIGH SCHOOL
4301 EAST WEST HWY
BETHESDA, MD 20814
654-5264





M: 35-14-14

ECC High School

Bldgs A+C

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Lebovich

6/99

MD SHPO

looking e.n.e.
across East-

West Highway
at school

1/32



M: 35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldgs A+C

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Lebovici

4/99

MO SHPO

looking NE

across East-West

Highway at

School

2/32



M: 25-1414
ECC High School
Bldg A
Montgomery Co,
MO

Bill Lebeck
6133

MO SHPO
South

elevation,
looking
East

3/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

Box A

Montgomery Co., MO

Bill Lebovich

6/99

MO SHPD

South elevation,
looking west

4132



M=35-14-14

BCC High School
Bldg A

Montgomery Co., MD

B. H. Lebovich

6/99

MD SHPO

detail of

center of

main

elevation

5/32



M.35-14-14

BCC High
School

Bldg. A

Montgomery Co.,

Bill Lebowich^{MD}

6/99

detail: main

entrance

balcony

MD 5/11/00

6/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School
Bldg A

Montgomery Co., MD

Bill Lebovich

6/99

MD SHPO

East Elevation

7/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

Blk A

Montgomery, MD

Bill Leborich

4/99

MD SHPO

North

Elevation

8132



M:35-14-14
BCC High School
Bldg A
Montgomery Co, MD
Bill Lebovich
4/99
MD SHPO
west + north
elevations
9132



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

Building A

Montgomery Co., MD

Bill LeBlanc

U99

MD SHRO

West elevation

10/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School
Montgomery Co, Md

Bill Lebowitz

6/99

MD SHPO

hyphens

connecting

blogs A & C

11/32



M:35-14-4

Rec High
School

Bldg C
Montgomery Co.
MD

Bill Lebold
1/32

MD STATE
SOUTH

1/32
1/32

12/32



M. 35-14-14
RCC High School
Bldg C
Montgomery,
Ala.
Bill Lebovich
6/52
MO 3400
detail of
entrance,
south
elevation
13/32



M: 35-14-14
REC High School
Bldg C
Montgomery Co., MD
Bill Leberich
6/95
MO SHPO
Sable Ridge
S.E. corner
14/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

1345 C

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Lebowich

6/99

MD SHPD

East elevation

100000

North

15/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg C

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Leberich

6/93

MD SHPO

the elevations

16/32



M:35-14-14

BA High

School

Blodg C

Montgomery, AL

MO

Bill Lebovich

6/99

210 5446

Center of
East elevation

17/32



M. 35-14-14

RCC High School
Montgomery Co. MD

Bill Leberich

6/99

detail of floor

surround

center of

cast elevation

MD SHPO

18/32



MD-35-14-14

PCC High School

Bill C

Wendover Co. MD

Bill Lebovich

6/99

MD SHPC

Cupola, cad

abandoned

19/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

Box C

Montgomery Co,

MD
Bill Lebovich

1999

MD SHPO

West elevation

20/32



MD: 35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg H

Montgomery Co.

MD

Bill Lebowitz

6/99

MD SHPO

Cafeteria,

looking

east

21/32



M, 35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg A

Montgomery Co. MS

Bill Lebovich

6/95

MS SITPO

1st floor corridor

looking east

22/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School
Bldg A

Montgomery, Co.

Bill Lebovich

6199

MOSBY

entrance hall

looking north

23/32



M: 35-14-14

BCC High School

BVH A

Ne. Emergency Care, MD

East Lehigh

6/99

MO SHPO

main office,
looking east

24/32

208



M=35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg A

Montgomery, AL

Bill Lovelace

6/99

1100 S.W.

2nd floor corridor,
looking east

25/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School
Bldg A
Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Leberich
Class

MD SHPO

Room A 206,
looking west
26/32



M:35-14-14

BCC High School

Bldg A

Montgomery Co, MD

Bill Lebowich

6/99

MD SHPO

Room A 313,

looking SE

27/32



M:315-14-14

Bee High School

Blade C

Montgomery Co.

1982

Bill Lebowitz

6-79

MO SHPO

1st Floor

Ceiling drawing

10000

11/10/82

28/32



M:35-14-14

BCC Highland

Slag C

Ball Lebowitz

U.S.

ND SHVC

2nd Floor

Corridor

Looking north

25/32



M: 35-14-14
BCC High School
Bldg C
Montgomery Co. MD
Bill Lebovich
6/39
Room C 215,
looking north
MD SHPO
30/32



M:35-Y4-14

PCC High School

Bldg C

Montgomery Co, MD

B. H. Lebrun

6/98

MD SHPC

Room C 316,

looking east

31/32



M:35-14-14
BCL High School
Bldg C

Montgomery Co.
MD

Bill LeVivich
6/99

MD SHPO

3rd Floor
Stairlanding
N.W. Corner

32/32